

Joint Committee on Judiciary

Hartford, CT 06106

I consider HB6355, AN ACT CONCERNING RISK PROTECTION ORDERS OR WARRANTS to be disrespectful to Connecticut's responsible, law abiding gun owners. The bill violates rights to due process and the presumption of innocence let alone our second amendment rights. The legislature would not infringe on the rights of any other group and treat them so disrespectfully.

Connecticut already has laws to protect citizens from those considered dangerous, including the current RPO law. In addition, medical personnel can detain individuals for up to 72 hours.

While the idea for such a law is reasonable, statutes, such as HB 6355 are not. The bill's focus on seizures while ignoring constitutional rights mean HB 6355 is a GUN CONFISCATION BILL, not an effective public safety measure.

No research has found any significant crime reduction from the type of provisions found in gun confiscation bills such as HB 6355.

An effective bill would encompass protections for the rights of responsible citizens and further enhance public safety. For Example:

- Petitions initiated by law enforcement, not by spurned dating partners or relationships from long ago. One third of warrants are overturned. HB6355 will further increase the false warrants especially in an environment with a negative bias against gun owners.
- Guarantees of all due process rights, including cross-examination and right to court appointed counsel.
- A civil remedy for victims of false and malicious petitions. Prosecutions for perjury are rare in Connecticut and the negative bias.
- Strict controls on police raids.
- Prompt restoration of concealed of carry permits, prompt return of firearms and prompt termination of an order for the falsely accused. Firearms should be in same condition as when seized.
- Not allowing time-limited orders to be bootstrapped into lifetime prohibition.

I ask that this Committee take no further action with this ineffective gun confiscation bill which suffers from potential constitutional violations and may well lead to dangerous encounters between police and innocent citizens.

Respectfully,

Chris Hiltgen